

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend the claims as follows.

B1 --1(Currently amended). A method for preventing mutually exclusive content entities stored in a data repository from being included in a compilation of content entities, comprising the steps of:

storing reference information for each content entity identifying other content entities that are mutually exclusive with that content entity, wherein said reference information identifies content ineligible for placement within the same compilation ~~indicates exclusion of the content entity from compilations including any of the other content entities;~~

when adding a content entity to a compilation, referencing the reference information to determine if the content entity is mutually exclusive of other content entities, and

if so, determining if any of the identified other content entities exists in the compilation of content, and

if not, adding the content entity to the compilation, and

if so, not adding the content entity to the compilation.

2(Currently amended). A program storage device readable by a machine, tangibly embodying a program of instructions executable by the machine to perform method steps for preventing mutually exclusive content entities stored in a data repository from being included in a compilation of content entities, the method steps comprising:

storing reference information for each content entity identifying other content entities that are mutually exclusive with that content entity, wherein said reference information identifies

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~~content ineligible for placement within the same compilation indicates exclusion of the content entity from compilations including any of the other content entities;~~

when adding a content entity to a compilation, referencing the reference information to determine if the content entity is mutually exclusive of other content entities, and

if so, determining if any of the identified other content entities exists in the compilation of content, and

if not, adding the content entity to the compilation, and

if so, not adding the content entity to the compilation.

3(Currently amended). A system for preventing mutually exclusive content entities stored in a data repository from being included in a compilation of content entities, comprising:

means for storing reference information for each content entity identifying other content entities that are mutually exclusive with that content entity, wherein said reference information ~~identifies content ineligible for placement within the same compilation indicates exclusion of the content entity from compilations including any of the other content entities;~~

means for referencing the reference information when adding a content entity to a compilation, to determine if the content entity is mutually exclusive of other content entities;

means for determining if any of the identified other content entities exists in the compilation of content; and

means for adding the content entity to the compilation if none of the other content entities exists in the compilation, and means for not adding the content entity to the compilation if any of the other content entities exists in the compilation.

B1 4(Previously presented). The method of claim 1 wherein said reference information is in the form of rules.

5(Previously presented). The device of claim 2 wherein said reference information is in the form of rules.

6(Previously presented). The system of claim 3 wherein said reference information is in the form of rules.

B2 7(New). The method of claim 1, wherein said reference information defines relationships between the content entities stored in the data repository to identify said content ineligible for placement within the same compilation.

8(New). The method of claim 1, wherein said compilation includes content entities selected by a user from the data repository.

9(New). The device of claim 2, wherein said reference information defines relationships between the content entities stored in the data repository to identify said content ineligible for placement within the same compilation.

10(New). The device of claim 2, wherein said compilation includes content entities selected by a user from the data repository.

B2 11(New). The system of claim 3, wherein said reference information defines relationships between the content entities stored in the data repository to identify said content ineligible for placement within the same compilation.

12(New). The system of claim 3, wherein said compilation includes content entities selected by a user from the data repository.--
